

**State of Vermont**  
**Department of Health**  
Immunizations  
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*Agency of Human Services*

To: Vermont School Nurses, Principals, Headmasters and Superintendents  
From: Immunization Program  
Date: May 31, 2012  
Re: Legislative Changes to Vermont School Immunization Law

We want to be sure that you are informed of upcoming changes in the Vermont Immunization Law, which go into affect on July 1, 2012. Some of these changes will affect reporting requirements and will involve the use of updated forms created by the Vermont Department of Health.

There are three main areas where these changes will occur:

**Changes in reporting:**

- Aggregate data on immunization rates for the entire student body in a school, and children enrolled in a licensed school-based pre-school program must be made publicly available by the school. Data from the 2012-13 academic year will need to be made available prior to the start of the 2013-14 academic year.
- Reporting will need to include the number and type of exemptions for each required vaccine only for those students in kindergarten, first, seventh and eighth grades.
- The online reporting system (Annual Immunization Status Report) will be modified to address these changes.

**Provisional admittance**

- Students not meeting vaccine or exemption requirements may not attend school without a provisional admittance form.
- Students provisionally admitted to pre-school or school must be fully immunized within six months of enrollment.

**Parent Education for philosophical and religious exemptions**

- Parents must attest that they have read and understand evidence-based educational materials on immunization that will be provided by the Vermont Department of Health.
- The philosophical and religious exemption form is now separate from the medical exemption form and must be signed annually for all exempted students.

These changes have been adopted by the Vermont Legislature to help keep Vermont's children healthy. Parent educational materials and all of the necessary forms will be available on our website ([www.healthvermont.gov](http://www.healthvermont.gov)) by July 1. Thank you for your assistance in implementing these important changes.

